

Pennsylvania Company for Insurances on Lives
and Granting Annuities
304 Walnut Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1463

HABS
PA
51-PHILA
588-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY FOR INSURANCES ON LIVES AND GRANTING ANNUITIES		HABS NO. PA-1453
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 304 Walnut Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1859	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Chartered in 1812, the company is the oldest institution of its kind in the nation.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with Pictou stone front. Rear buildings: common bond brick.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Measures approx. 25' (three-bay front) X 97'; two stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The front facade has a smooth first floor and a rusticated second floor. The former is accented with spandrels and pilasters resting on plinths. Round-arch windows on this facade are recessed and are nicely finished with stone frames and keystones. The street number, "304", is over the keystones of two first floor windows. (continued on page 2)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The original large banking room was two stories high and occupied front section of the building, and had a second floor gallery, which is still intact. The original offices were in the rear wing. Original interior elements include the following: coved ceiling with heavy dentiled cornice and skylight in the center; baseboards; simple Italian marble (con't. on p. 2)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Old brick outhouse in the rear yard demolished 1961.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. 1859 insurance survey for 304 Walnut Street, name of insurance company not known.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION James C. Massey, HABS architect, November, 1961; Susan McCown, editor, Historic American Buildings Survey, May 15, 1984		DATE

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EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

Also on this facade are segmental basement windows which are also decorated with keystones. The sash of all main windows consists of five upper lights and three lower lights. The entrance doorway is recessed like the windows, and is entered by a 4-step stoop. Double front doors each have one recessed panel, framed by a heavy bolection molding and decorated with lattice work. An oval peephole is cut in the center of each door. A semi-circular, 3-light transom with a keystone is over this doorway. A double cornice is at the roofline of the front facade. A single cornice is between first and second floor levels. Original shutters in the rear building are still intact (as of 1961).

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

fireplaces; yellow pine floor (since replaced); front door hardware (see HABS photo); 2-run open string stair with mahogany rail and octagonal newell; interior shutters (since removed).